

From the Director



Randy Hunt
State Director

I wanted to take this opportunity to pass on the positive information about the passage of an operational budget that funds Rural Development programs for Fiscal Year 2007.

Funding levels for the agency will be the same as for FY 2006. Ohio's share of the 2006 budget totaled \$228 million. That figure included additional program funding that we had to compete for nationally.

We will be focusing our funding strategies on improving rural access to Broadband technology and increasing the awareness and use of our Renewable Energy Program.

If you are, or know anyone interested in completing an energy project soon, please review the Rural Development Calendar located on page 3 of this newsletter. It highlights our Renewable Energy workshops planned in March.

Rural Development Funding Increases Appalachia's Water Quality, Capacity *More than \$77 Million Delivers Cleaner, Safer Water*



(From left) Stephen Caraway, representative from Congresswoman Jean Schmidt's office, Greg Stanley, TMWA plant operations manager, Nan Cahall, representative from Sen. George Voinovich's office, Samuel Swanson, project engineer with Burgess and Niple, Randy Hunt, USDA Rural Development state director, Jerry Ginn, secretary TMWA Board of Trustee, Weldon Taulbee, TMWA Board of Trustee and Bob Proud, Clermont County Commissioner participate in the presentation of \$12,577,000 in Rural Development financing for the new Clermont County water treatment plant.

USDA Rural Development awarded a \$12,577,000 financing package to fund the construction of a new water treatment plant in Clermont, Ohio. The recipient of the loan is the Tate Monroe Water Association (TMWA), Inc.

"This financial package is certainly one of our larger community investments this year," said Hunt. "We've worked with the Tate Monroe Water Association before and are delighted to be able to help Clermont County residents improve the quality and supply of their drinking water."

Total cost of the project is \$19,436,000. The funds will be used for the construction of a new 2 million-gallon-a-day (mgd) water treatment plant that can be expanded to 6 mgd as demand requires. The water system serves approximately 9,000 customers throughout Clermont County.

Clermont County is located in Ohio's Appalachian region where Rural Development targets a significant portion of its funding. "Additional Appalachia water projects recently funded include \$22 million to Jackson

See **Appalachia Water** on p. 2

USDA Rural Development Awards \$175,000 Grant to Local Community Organization

USDA Rural Development's Rural Community Development Initiative Program (RCDI) awarded more than \$6.4 million in grant funds to 33 organizations in 21 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. An Ohio community action commission was among the recipients. The funds will be used to support rural economic development efforts.

"The Wood, Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky (WSOS) Community Action Commission received a \$175,000 RCDI grant, their third since becoming involved with the Rural Development program," said Ohio Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt. "WSOS has nurtured their capacity to integrate our programs into their daily operations, tapping the RCDI program for more than \$1



(From left) Chris Strumsky, representative from Congressman Paul Gillmor's office, Neil McCabe, WSOS president, Randy Hunt, USDA Rural Development state director and Dennis Fligor, representative from Sen. George Voinovich's office, participate in the presentation of \$175,000 in Rural Community Development Initiative grant funding to WSOS. This is the third RCDI grant awarded to WSOS and boosts their RCDI funding from Rural Development to more than \$1 million.

million. Our partnership with WSOS truly exemplifies how cooperation and creativity generates more local economic

benefits while delivering critical services to rural Ohioans."

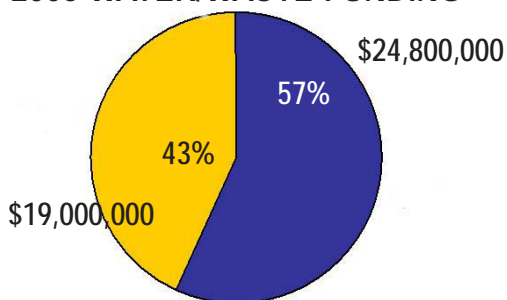
See [WSOS](#) on p. 3

Appalachia Water cont. from p. 1

Water Company in Jackson County, \$18.2 million to Le-Ax Water District in Hocking County and \$20 million to the Buckeye Water District in Columbiana County," said Hunt. "These four projects total \$77.7 million, help provide clean,

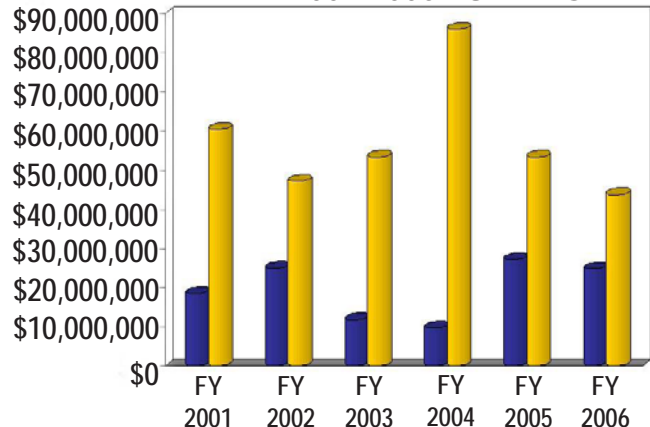
safe water for more than 25,000 Appalachian families and keeps us focused on our mission of delivering essential services to rural Americans."

FY 2006 WATER/WASTE FUNDING



■ APPALACHIA WATER/WASTE FUNDING
■ TOTAL STATE WATER/WASTE FUNDING

FY 2001-2006 FUNDING



■ APPALACHIA WATER/WASTE FUNDING
■ TOTAL STATE WATER/WASTE FUNDING

Rural Development Calendar

MARCH

Renewable Energy Workshops

Learn about funding opportunities and other financial incentives. The workshops will be held from 9:00 am to Noon with registration beginning at 8:30 in the following locations:

March 6 - Portsmouth, Ohio

Scioto County Welcome Center
342 Second Street.

March 8 - Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 E. Main Street.

March 14 - Findlay, Ohio

USDA Service Center
7868 County Road 140

Pre-registration is not required. For information call Sharon Pace at 614-255-2427.

WSOS cont. from p. 2

WSOS will use the RCDI funding to assist Morgan County and the Village of New London in identifying and correcting infrastructure deficiencies and developing plans for follow-up assistance. RCDI funding helps nonprofit, community-based development organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and low-income communities improve their ability to develop rural housing and community facilities and to improve economic growth. A complete list of the grant recipients is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to continue expanding our efforts in community and economic development to benefit Ohio's rural communities," said WSOS Community Development Director Deb Martin.

"We appreciate the tremendous support that we get from Rural Development. Having access to their range of programs allows us to tackle the issues that rural communities face in the most comprehensive way possible."

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OHIO OFFICES

Findlay Area Office

7868 CR, 140, Suite D
Findlay, Ohio 45840
(419) 422-0242

State Office

200 N. High Street, Rm. 507
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 255-2400

Hillsboro Area Office

514 Harry Sauner Road, Suite 3
Hillsboro, Ohio 45133
(937) 393-1921

Massillon Area Office

2650 Richville Drive S.E., Suite 102
Massillon, Ohio 44646
(330) 830-7700

Marietta Area Office

21330 State Route 676, Suite A
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(740) 373-7113

